

RCE Application of U.S. Serial No. 10/615,788
Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the present invention.

As now presented, Claim 1, the only independent claim of the present application is to a harness protector that has a wire harness, with a harness protector main body for accommodating the wire harness in the curved shape. A friction member, that has a resilient protruding part, having inclined pieces in a substantially triangular, hemispherical or round shape thereon, is provided that only temporarily contacts with the holds the wire harness in the harness protector main body. Such an arrangement is not taught in the reference cited.

In the previous final Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 5-9 were rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by a newly cited reference Doshita et al. (US 2002 0005014 A1) and Claim 4 was rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of that reference. Reconsideration and removal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that the reference shows a harness protector for a wire harness (86) in a main body (81) that accommodates the wire harness in a curved shape. Referring to Figure 13 of the reference, the Office Action alleges that a friction member (88) is provided for only temporarily contacting with and holding the wire harness in the main body.

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A study of Figure 13 and the description thereof on pages 8 and 9 of the publication does not, Applicants believe, suggest the interpretation alleged in the Office Action. It appears that the friction member 88 is always in contact with the wire harness 86. This friction member appears to represent the spring 14 of the present claimed invention and does not correspond, at all, to friction member 6.

In addition, the friction member 6 of the present claimed harness protector has a resilient protruding part 7 with inclined pieces in a substantially triangular, hemispherical or round shape for the temporary holding of the wire harness, as now specified in amended Claim 1. Such a feature is discussed at page 11, lines 16-24 and page 20, lines 20-21 and the present drawings, and is completely absent from the reference.

In view of the present amendment to the claims and the above remarks, Applicants' Claims 1-9 are believed to be patentable and early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

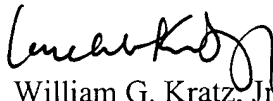
The above amendments are believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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